WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Data on Educational Status of Minorities

*181. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government do not have any adequate data on the educational status of minorities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to collect such a data through sample surveys or through individual surveys;

(d) whether availability of such data will help for further welfare of the minorities; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e). There is need for better educational data on minorities. Accordingly, the National Council of Educational Research and Training and National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration have been advised to undertake surveys and studies.

Literacy Rate in Punjab

*182. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is formulating any plan to accord high priority to improve the literacy rate between males and females in Punjab;

(b) whether any comprehensive scheme has been prepared in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The Government is pursuing a national programme to improve literacy among adults in the age-group of 15-35 years. The strategy includes a multi-pronged total literacy campaign, followed by activities to sustain the momentum during the post-literacy period.

In so far as Punjab is concerned, Faridkot, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, Rupnagar and Sangrur districts and one block each of Jalandhar and Ferozepur districts have been covered under Total Literacy Campaigns. After completion of Literacy Campaigns, Post Literacy Campaigns have also been sanctioned in Faridkot and Hoshiarpur Districts.

Opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas in North-East

*183. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that very few Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened in seven States of the North-East in general and the State of Assam in Particular;

(b) if so, the details of the Navodaya Vidyalayas opened in the Region till date; and

(c) the details of the places/districts in which these Vidyalayas are proposed to be set up in next academic year?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). No Sir. Out of 61 districts in the North-Eastern Region, including Assam, existing at the commencement of 8th Five year Plan, Navodaya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned in 46 districts as per Statement laid on the Table of the House. (*see* below)

(c) The endeavour of the Samiti is to cover as many districts as possible at the earliest, depending on receipt of complete proposals from the State Governments, including offer of 30 acres of land, temporary accommodation and other infrastructural facilities and subject to availability of adequate resources.